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men living there are consciously or unconsciously influenced by their environment to give mechanical products an artistic touch that makes them attractive in the markets of the world.

In such matters a new country like our own is at a great disadvantage. The remedy, for many years, will be largely in the hands of the art museums. They aim to keep before the public as an educational influence, the best works of art in all departments. The bulk of their material for this work must be of foreign origin.

It does not suffice that the museums may import directly for their own use and possession without payment of duty. Few of them have much money to spend in that way. They depend largely on gifts, bequests and loans of works of art from private owners, who have paid the duty, though they are doing substantially the same educational work as the museums themselves. Such important aid in the elevation of the public taste, with its beneficial influence on industrial production, would be far more abundant if the tax upon it were removed.

The only industry protected by the duty in question is that of the artists, yet a majority of the best of them are on record as petitioners for its removal.

This petition has received the signatures of the representatives of art museums and organizations throughout the country, and has been sent to Hon. Henry S. Boutell, representative from Chicago, for presentation to Congress.

Copies of the petition and signatures have been furnished to Mr. Myron E. Pierce, Boston, Secretary of the Free Art League, and will be sent to every member of both Houses of Congress. It is perhaps too much to expect speedy action in the present state of the political world, but we hope by perpetual agitation ultimately to accomplish our object.

THE RYERSON LIBRARY

The following are the more noteworthy recent acquisitions to the library:

Gift of Mr. Fritz von Frantzius:
Hanfstaengl—Maler klassiker: die meisterwerke der bedeutendsten gallerien Europas. 6 vols.

Bequest of Mrs. Mary E. Swan:
Alexandre—Histoire de l'art décoratif.
Garnier—The soft porcelain of Sèvres,
Jutsum—Meisterwerke of German art. 2 vols.

Gift of Mr. Martin A. Ryerson:
Berenson—North Italian painters of the Renaissance.

Appleton's European guide book. 2 vols.
Bacon—Investigations at Assos, pt. 1.
E. B.—Collection d'éventails anciens.
Collection de M. George Viau—Catalogue des tableaux.
Arduino—Gubbio (Italia artistica).
Forty-eight pamphlets—travel, guide books, etc.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Hearn,
New York:
Catalogue of a collection of watches belonging to Mrs. George A. Hearn.
Catalogue of the George A. Hearn gift to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 1906.

Gift of Mr. C. L. Hutchinson:
Boutet de Monvel—Joan of Arc.
Inland Architect, 10 numbers.

Purchases made abroad by Miss Forrester, the Librarian:
Wasmuth—Die Schmiedekunst.
d'Essling—Les livres à figures, Vénitiens.
Murphy—English and Scottish wrought iron work.
Kermode—Manx crosses.
Cellini — Treatises on goldsmithing and sculpture.
Pfnor—Le palais de Fontainebleau, architecture, decoration, etc.
Schoy—L'art de l'époque Louis XVI. 2 vols.

Tanner—English interior woodwork, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.
 Berty—*La Renaissance monumentale en France.* 2 vols.
 Percier et Fontaine—*Décorations intérieures.*
 Butler—The ancient Coptic churches of Egypt. 2 vols.
 Seeley—Stories of the Italian artists from Vasari.
 Gotch—Early Renaissance architecture in England.
 Sherer—*Dürer (Klassiker der Kunst).*
 Rosenberg—*Rubens (Klassiker der Kunst).*
 Belcher—Essentials in architecture.
 Roberts—Architectural sketching and drawing in perspective.

OTHER PURCHASES

McSpadden—Famous painters of America.
 Cox—Painters and Sculptors.
 Koch—Academy architecture, vols. 25 to 31.
 Mitchell—Practical stencil work.
 Lansdale—The chateaux of Touraine, with illustrations by Jules Guerin.
 Crane—An artist's reminiscences.
 Rhead—Staffordshire pots and potters.
 Cole—Old Spanish masters.
 Molmenti—Venice. The golden age. 2 vols.
 Naville—The XIth dynasty temple at Deir-El-Bahari, pt. 1. (Egypt Exploration Fund).
 Freeman—Italian sculpture of the Renaissance.
 Cortissoz—Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

JAPANESE INROS

A collection of sixty Japanese inros or decorated medicine cases, has been presented to the museum by Mrs. George T. Smith. They constituted the collection of a connoisseur in Japan. Prof. Cho Yo, who had charge of the Japanese exhibition in the World's Columbian Exposition, has examined them, and pronounces them very valuable examples of the work of a class of artist-artisans which is rapidly disappearing. They have not yet been placed upon exhibition.

THE FERGUSON MONUMENT FUND

The great bequest of Benjamin F. Ferguson for the erection of permanent statues and monuments in Chicago under the direction of the Trustees of the Art Institute, has begun to yield interest for this purpose at the rate of about \$25,000 a year. It was at first proposed to erect a memorial of Mr. Ferguson in the South Park territory, but the future of the down-town portion of the South Park territory, that is, the Lake Front, is so uncertain, that this project has been postponed, and upon Oct. 31, 1907, the Trustees voted to make a contract with Mr. Lorado Taft, sculptor, of Chicago, for the erection of a bronze monument in the form of a fountain after his design entitled "The Fountain of the Great Lakes." A contract has accordingly been concluded between Mr. Taft and the Trustees of the Art Institute for the execution of the work within three years.

STICKNEY ENGRAVINGS

A collection of engravings and prints selected from the Stickney Collection, will soon be placed on exhibition in the Print Room (Room 50). In the arrangement of this collection, as in the case of the Whistler etchings recently exhibited, the Art Institute avails itself of the skill and taste of Mr. Albert Roullier.

THE TRUSTEES

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